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THE LYNCH-KING CASE.

IF AS CLAIMED by the attorneys for Lynch and King, the convicted murderers, there is a strong possibility that they may be set free because the records of their trial and conviction have been lost, then it is high time some of our laws were changed. It has been a long while since Godfrey Prowse was shot to death. After a trial in which every legal right of the accused men was jealously guarded, they were convicted and sentenced to be shot.

Months and months have dragged along since then. Other murders have been committed and other murderers sentenced. Yet King and Lynch and all the rest still occupy cells; all are enjoying excellent health and all seem likely to live to a good old age. Now come the lawyers of Lynch and King with the plea that because the records of their conviction are lost or destroyed, they must be set free to rob and murder somebody else.

From a common sense standpoint, the argument is most absurd. It is on a par with some of the stage melodramas in which, because the beautiful victim of the plotters loses the deed to the property, she loses the property likewise. A cloud of witnesses to the conviction of King and Lynch could be secured. Members of the jury, the judge who tried the case, officers of the court and hundreds of spectators familiar with the circumstances are still alive. It certainly should not be necessary, therefore, to open the prison gates to these men or even to give them a new trial.

Such a proceeding would make a mockery of justice and a laughing stock of law. Besides, the precedent would be so dangerous that no court could afford to countenance it. If Lynch and King can go free because the records are lost, why would it not be possible for unscrupulous persons to steal the records in other cases and so secure immunity for convicted defendants?

On general principles the plea of the attorneys in this case should be thrown out of court without ceremony. It is a quibble without even the merit of sound sense to recommend it. If courts are to recognize arguments of this character, it will soon become impossible to carry out any decree. The people of Utah are patient, but the limit of their patience has about been reached.

A few of the executions that have been ordered would tend to clear the atmosphere considerably. If they are not forthcoming it will not be surprising if the citizens, in despair of securing reasonable prompt action through the courts, resort to other methods, distasteful though they are.

LONDON'S LIQUOR LAW.

THE OPERATIONS of London's new liquor law, a measure which went into effect with the beginning of the new year, will be watched with interest. If it does not check the progress of inebriety, then the London drunkards, in addition to being very resourceful, will prove themselves beyond hope of redemption.

In the first place, confirmed habits of drunkenness on the part of either husband or wife constitute a sufficient ground for divorce. There is nothing unusual about this provision, for nearly every state in the Union has a similar one. In the second place, the London law provides that after one conviction for drunkenness the inebriate must not touch liquor again for a period of three years, under penalty of a heavy fine.

In addition, the saloonkeeper who sells liquor to a convicted inebriate must, upon conviction, pay a fine. Persons in charge of children of the age of 7 years and under may be sent to prison for drunkenness. These stringent regulations were considered necessary on account of the alarming increase in drunkenness in the English capital. Statistics show that for a number of years the consumption of intoxicants has grown steadily, and now the evil has assumed the proportions of a national peril.

If the law is enforced as strictly as it should be enforced, making the drunkard-maker as well as the drunkard himself responsible, the good effects should become immediately noticeable. The trouble with most liquor laws is that they are entirely too one-sided. They shield the seller at the expense of the purchaser, notwithstanding the fact that the latter is sufficiently cursed in his appetite for intoxicants.

A DISCOURAGER OF ASSAULT.

AS A DISCOURAGER of the gentle art of assault and intimidation, the Herald claims the championship belt for J. A. Traylor of Keystone, near Ely, Nev. Mr. Traylor, according to the dispatches, is a mine manager. Recently he found it necessary to reduce the wages of his employees from \$3.50 to \$3 a day. The men who suffered thereby had the privilege of going somewhere else if they so desired, but apparently they didn't desire.

On the contrary they concluded that they could stay in Keystone and compel Mr. Traylor to move. Twelve of them, said to be members of the Miners' union, went to the manager's office and attempted to assault him. All though caught and thrown down, Mr. Traylor managed to free himself and

set his revolver into action. When the smoke cleared away three of his assailants were dead and three more were wounded. The rest had fled, leaving the manager in undisputed possession of the field.

The Herald feels sure that a majority of the people who read the story will join in the belief that the mob didn't get any more than it deserved. On general principles, men who combine for the purpose of doing personal violence to another man who has committed no crime, and in most cases where crime has been committed, are cowardly curs who are not entitled to any sympathy from decent people. It is never good judgment to arbitrate a labor dispute or any other difficulty with a club. The chances are that if the aggrieved miners had gone to the manager in a peaceful manner, he would have talked the situation over with them and a satisfactory agreement might have been reached.

Instead, they chose the brutal and cowardly method. Mr. Traylor is to be commended for his nerve and his good marksmanship. It is to be hoped that the dispatches about the affair are in error in the statement that the mob was composed of union men. If they were union men, then the survivors should be expelled just as promptly as action can be taken. Their attack on Mr. Traylor was unwarranted, unjustifiable and murderous, and he was strictly within his rights when he used his revolver.

Union labor, as a rule, stands for honest labor; it stands for the better class of labor everywhere, and the Miners' union in the west should not permit itself to go on record as an exception to the rule.

A RIGHTEOUS VERDICT.

TRUXTON BEALE and Thomas H. Williams, prominent citizens of California, have been cleared of a charge of assaulting F. Marriott with intent to kill him. In view of the circumstances surrounding the case, the verdict of the jury seems eminently proper. Marriott at the time of the assault was the proprietor of a weekly San Francisco publication. He seems to have been altogether too careless about the matter he published.

One week he printed a story containing reflections of the most scurrilous sort on the character of an estimable young woman, a friend of Beale's. No name was mentioned, but the girl was alluded to in such a way as to enable any reader who knew her to identify her. Beale promptly took the matter up and, accompanied by Williams, went to the home of the editor and all but killed him.

For a time, indeed, it was thought that Marriott would die but he recovered. Personal chastisement is about the only way to get at men of Marriott's stripe. Usually they are beyond the reach of actions for damages and the only thing they can be made to feel is physical violence.

BATTLESHIPS AND LIBRARIES.

WRITING TO THE HERALD from Cache Junction, a correspondent who signs himself "A Daily Subscriber," desires to know whether, in the event of an overflowing national treasury, it would be better to expend the surplus in the construction and maintenance of a great free library or in building a first-class battleship. We approach the subject with considerable awe, knowing that it has at least two sides.

Libraries are very useful things to have about the house or about the country. Still, as the poet says, "We may live without books, what is knowledge but grieving?" It would be a very difficult matter to live without books, in spite of the fact that uncounted thousands lived without them in the ages gone and were happy, too. But this is beside the question.

Suppose the country could have only one of two things, a library or a battleship, which should it choose, the good of all the people being considered? Well, if the powers should take it into their heads to shell New York City, books would be mighty poor ammunition to shoot back at them. Even the heaviest volume wouldn't make much of a hole in an armored cruiser.

On the other hand, if we could be assured of universal and everlasting peace, we wouldn't have much more use for battleships than we have for Knox as attorney general of the United States. All the surplus money could go into libraries in competition with Mr. Carnegie, and before long we Americans would know so much that we could make a peaceful conquest of the whole world.

Come to think about it, we haven't answered our correspondent's question very explicitly, but as we were not under oath we have endeavored to give our exact views on the subject. "A Daily Subscriber" is dear to our heart, and we have done our level best for him, but there are some questions we would rather the other fellow would answer.

The Herald, in common with the hundreds of other friends former Sheriff Taylor has in Salt Lake, is sorry to lose him as a citizen. We trust, however, that he will enjoy a full, pressed down and running over measure of prosperity in the new Cache county home to which he has betaken himself. Cache may consider herself fortunate in the acquisition of Ham Taylor.

"No objection will be made to the increase of pay granted to Waterworks Superintendent Hines by the council committee to which the matter had been referred. As the head of what is perhaps the city's most important department, Mr. Hines was entitled to more money. A salary of \$125 per month is by no means too much.

Senator Allison of Ogden-Salt Lake, or Salt Lake-Ogden, as you happen to feel, is slated for the presidency of the senate. Well, he may have a little brief authority there but he won't have nearly as much fun as he would if he were on the floor.

Mayor Chin Chin of Chinatown is on his way back to China for a brief visit. It is safe to say that Chin will make that name of his seem appropriate when he meets his friends again.

It is to be feared that about Tuesday next the members of the legislature will awaken to the fact that they are not such awfully important men, after all.

SOCIETY.

Miss Katherine Judge entertained at a very delightful dinner last evening, at which covers were laid for eight. The table decorations were most unique, the colors being pale pink and green. Three baskets of pale pink carnations were suspended from above the table and candles shaded in the same color lighted the board. Place cards in the same color were used. The guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Perry, Mrs. Louise Smiley Smith, Miss Burke, Mr. Benner Smith, Mr. J. Wolcott Thompson and Mr. Clarence McCormick.

Judge and Mrs. William H. King entertained at a very prettily appointed dinner last evening. The table decorations were all in green and red and a combination of the two colors were used in high vase. Covers were laid for ten, those present being Judge and Mrs. Henderson, Colonel and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Mattson E. Whitney, and Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Richards.

Mrs. Clement gave a very delightful dinner Monday evening, followed by a theatre party, which Mrs. William G. Sharp was the guest of honor. The table decorations were pink and pale green, and dainty place cards showing a combination of the two colors were used. The guests present were Mrs. Sharp, Miss Hammond, Miss Harkness, Colonel Budd, Captain Harbison, Dr. Critchlow and Mr. J. Wolcott Thompson.

At the meeting of the Ladies' Literary club this afternoon Mrs. Frank R. Elliott was the guest of honor. The "Tendency of Art," and Mrs. C. E. Richards will review Sir Richard Calmady.

Mrs. George K. Fischer will entertain next Wednesday at the first of a series of luncheons.

Mrs. D. C. McLaughlin will entertain next Monday evening at a large theatre party.

Mrs. Kate Bridwell Anderson entertained a few friends very pleasantly at cards last evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Burton will leave about the middle of the month for California, where they will spend the remainder of the winter.

Mrs. Solomon Siegel entertained a few friends very informally at a supper last evening.

Mrs. Victor M. Clement entertained at dinner Wednesday evening in honor of Miss Hammond.

Mrs. William G. Sharp will give the first of a series of luncheons on Saturday at the home of her mother.

Miss Edyth Hale returned Sunday to her studies at Stanford.

ON THE FRONTIER.

Major Sylvester's Christmas Dinner in Southern Utah.

"The manner of celebrating Christmas has changed in many details within the past few years," says Major Richard Sylvester. "This is especially true of the cities. The old time methods of making the children happy and joyful have in a great measure given way to the modern, up-to-date manner of doing things, which in no way, perhaps, detracts from the enjoyment of all concerned."

"It was twenty years ago, while I was in the Indian service in southern Utah, with half a dozen companions, being the only whites within hundreds of miles, myself a young man experiencing the first impression of solitude during a frigid winter, 2,000 miles from home, that I enjoyed a frontier Christmas dinner. Those who were my associates were husbands and fathers whom the mountains of snow separated from wife and children. It was a youth away from mother and sweetheart, and living always in a place where a keen regard for Christmas time, it fell to my lot to arrange the dinner, and the first man who found with it had to wash the dishes—mostly tin and iron. This too-avoided pleasure was not indulged in by any of us, for it meant that the feast was beyond their criticism."

"A day Gaw, one of the finest, sleekest Chinamen who ever swung a skillet, was our cook. I resuscitated Andy in a mining camp near Salt Lake, and he had to prepare our meals at 30 a month. He assumed the name of Andy, and having a bright complexion and good English address, he was an Irishman. His residence was a two-room log house. In one of the rooms wooden carpenters' horses with long planks stretched between them furnished the springs upon which our mattresses were placed for sleeping. A large Spanish fireplace, which was of necessity kept continuously brightly lighted with burning logs, occupied the end of the room. In the middle a square pine table stood, which was used for writing as well as dining purposes. The adjoining room was where Andy cooked, washed and slept."

"It goes without saying that I made a close inspection of canned and other goods in our stock for that eventful meal, and while each and all of us moured our separation from home and turkey, we had some from native long horns, roast beef and venison, canned tomatoes and corn, canned butter, hot rolls cooked in a 'Dutch' oven in the hot coals of the fireplace. The following morning we presented ourselves, and Utes like other Indians, are always hungry. I instructed Andy to give them meat, biscuits and coffee as a Christmas meal. He seated them at the table, unfortunately, and while his back was turned each one of them with a knife or teaspoon took possession of the table, and devoured our cans of butter and condensed milk, and while his back was turned each one of them with a knife or teaspoon took possession of the table, and devoured our cans of butter and condensed milk, and while his back was turned each one of them with a knife or teaspoon took possession of the table, and devoured our cans of butter and condensed milk."

"That wild and broken country of twenty years ago now traversed by railroads, and is covered with cities and towns where Indian villages stood, and many of the aborigines had no idea of Christmas in those days today provide or have given them the bird of the season."

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